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No. 74.

the "Borough" Guides

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A Map of the District,
14 Pictures,
and Descriptive Letterpress.

Being No. 74 of
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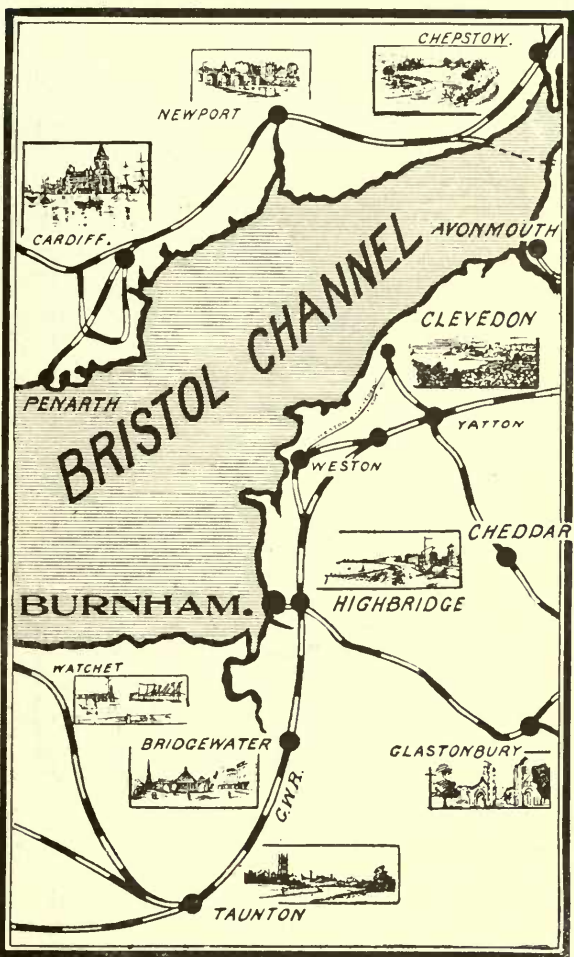
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LADY HOOD OF AVALON
writes to acknowledge the postal order
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Burnham.

POSITION OF THE TOWN AND HOW TO GET THERE.

No part of England's coast line can compare for general bracing healthiness with that of North Somerset, and owing to the many advantages of this highly-favoured district, such towns as Burnham, Minehead and Watchet have acquired a great deal of popularity during recent years.

Situated on Bridgwater Bay, at the mouth of the river Parret, **Burnham** faces almost due west, and is within easy reach of such interesting places as Athelney, Cheddar, Glastonbury, Wells and Holford Glen.

Dwellers in the Northern and Midland counties have already discovered that there is no need for them to take the long journey down to the South Coast in search of rest and recuperation, when they can obtain what they desire much closer at hand, and at far less expense. The result has been that year by year the number of visitors to Burnham and the other resorts on the same coast has steadily increased, and signs are not wanting which point to the ultimate expansion of the town we are about to briefly describe. On the south and south-west Burnham is bounded by the Quantock Hills, to the north will be seen the hills of Wales, behind the town is the rich and famous Cheddar Valley, while on the eastern side Brent Knoll affords protection from keen and undesirable winds.

By rail, Burnham is approached either on the Midland and South-Western Joint Companies' Somerset and Dorset line running into the town station, or by the Great Western main line to

Highbridge Junction from Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon.

Many visitors also arrive by steamer from Cardiff, the journey being accomplished in about an hour. The present landing-stage is altogether inadequate, and it is probable that a fine Pier similar to our illustration will shortly be erected.

By means of the fine steamers owned by Messrs. P. & A. Campbell, and the Barry Steamboat Company, Burnham is also in communication with Ilfracombe, Lynton, Lynmouth and other places on the neighbouring coast.

BURNHAM'S HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT.

We shall content both ourselves and our readers with the briefest sketch of the town's history and growth, for the restless tourist of to-day wants to know all about present attractions rather than about musty records of the past.

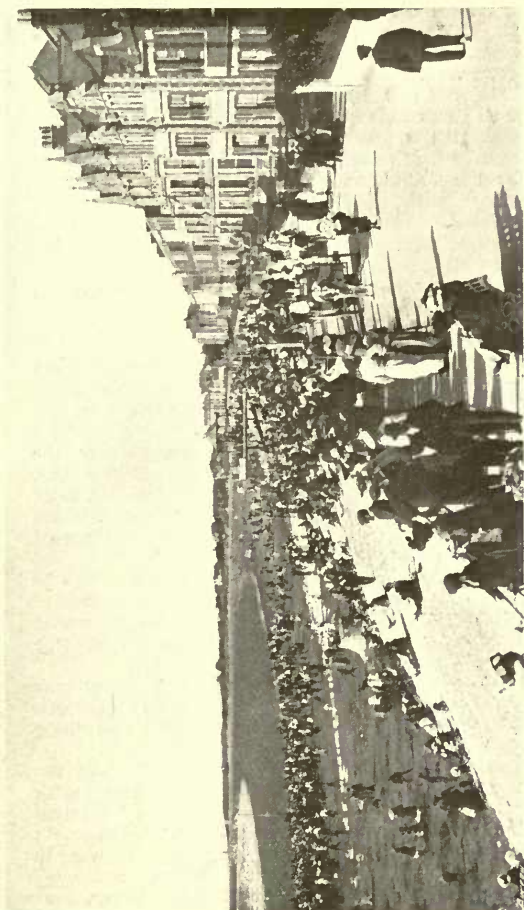
As might be expected, Burnham is mentioned in the will of Alfred the Great, for it was part of his Royal Manor. In later days, Edith or Githa, the mother of King Harold, is said to have sought refuge here, after the battle of Hastings, a part of the parish being still called **Edithmead**.

During the Middle Ages Burnham must have been unconscious of

“The great wave that moves around the world,” and was far too interested in the constant disputes arising concerning the possession of its manor, and the rebuilding of its Parish Church, to trouble much about such trifles as Bannockburn or the abdication of Edward II.

A Chantry of some importance was founded in the second year of King Edward VI.'s reign, but this has disappeared long ago, nor has its site been discovered.

In the 18th century things began to move at Burnham largely through the influence of its land surveyor—an individual named Richard Locke, who was evidently convinced of the possibilities of the town as a seaside resort, and declared that it was “capable of being made one of the pleasantest sea-bathing places in the kingdom.”



BURNHAM, LOOKING NORTH.

Montague Cooper, Photo.

With the formation of the Board of Health in 1850 various improvements were introduced in the town, sanitary arrangements were satisfactorily dealt with, and a good public water supply secured.

In 1894 this Board (which had done such splendid work) was formed into an **Urban District Council**, and at the present time is composed of twelve members. One of the finest things accomplished by the Council was the acquisition of the Manor House, with its adjacent estate, for public gardens in 1903. We shall have occasion to describe these gardens later, it is only necessary to state here that they have proved an invaluable boon to the town, which now possesses all the essential qualities of a popular summer resort.

BURNHAM AS A HEALTH RESORT.

The name Burnham means "the home of men beside the stream," and in truth one could desire no healthier spot in which to spend one's days.

The town is cooled and cleansed by winds which have been tempered in their passage over the Atlantic and the Gulf Stream to such a degree that, when they do arrive, they are at once soft, pure and bracing, bringing health to the houses which have been wisely built in such a way as to benefit fully by these western breezes.

A dry soil and well-arranged streets are also to be taken into account in discussing the secrets of Burnham's healthfulness. The climate in winter is mild, the annual rainfall exceedingly low, and the amount of sunshine correspondingly high.

Persons suffering from pulmonary complaints invariably benefit from a stay at Burnham; zymotic diseases are practically unknown, and everything is done to make invalids comfortable.

A writer in the "Bristol Mercury" gave the town the following excellent character as a health resort:—"Health seekers need have no hesitation in selecting Burnham for a summer 'pick-me-up'; indeed, physicians of high standing are warmly recommending it to patients who need a bracing atmosphere. It may not be generally known that the Burnham air contains a quantity of iodine,



BURNHAM FROM THE PIER.

Montague Cooper, Photo.

hence its claim on medical attention. For lovers of Turner's sunsets Burnham must have a particular interest. There they may see in reality the glory he depicted on canvas, for some of that great artist's finest sky and sea-paintings are taken from its beach. Visitors cannot fail to be charmed with the cleanliness of this rapidly rising town, and the accommodation it affords."

ACCOMMODATION.

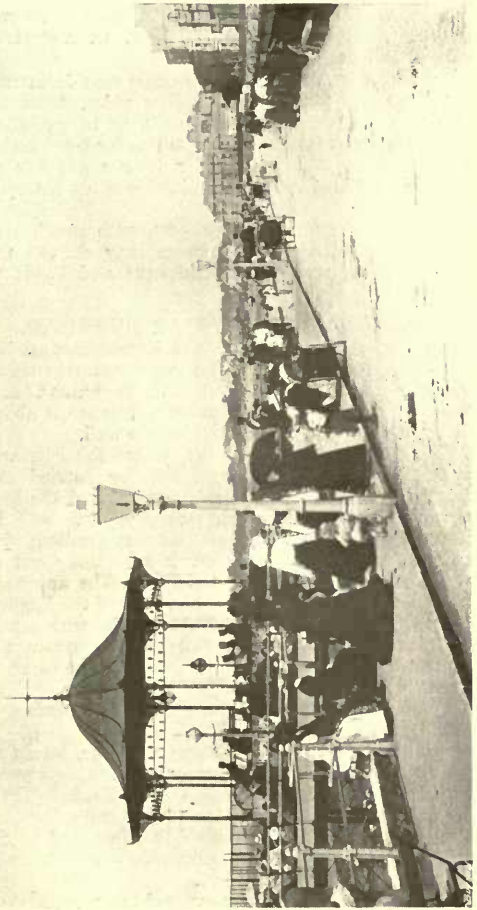
The principal Hotels at Burnham are the Queen's near the railway station (the headquarters of the Burnham and County Club) and the Royal Clarence in the centre of the sea front. There are also a number of good private hotels and boarding-houses, so that the visitor will have no difficulty in finding a temporary dwelling place. The busiest time of the year at Burnham is during the month of August, and that is the only period when the number of visitors is likely to exceed the limits of the town's accommodation.

THE ESPLANADE AND SEA FRONT.

Burnham's most important thoroughfare is the fine Esplanade, which stretches for over half a mile along the sea front, and which will soon be illuminated by electric light, the arrangements being already well forward. On one side of the broad carriage drive are some of the best houses in the town, while on the other is the fine sandy beach, which extends for a distance of between six and seven miles, and forms a splendid playground for the children. To the north of the Esplanade is an estate which is rapidly being built upon, so that in a very short time a complete Crescent will be formed, reaching from the Queen's Hotel to the low lighthouse.

Mention should also be made here of the "Rectory" Estate, on the north side of the town, which has now been covered by residences of a high-class character, designed for families who, while wishing to reside near the sea and golf links, prefer not to have their residence upon the sea front.

The fine bandstand on the Esplanade (shown



BURNHAM BANDSTAND AND SEA FRONT.

Montague Cooper, Photo.

in our illustration) was erected, together with two shelters and conveniences, in 1902, at a cost of several thousand pounds.

Burnham Sands provide the usual seaside attractions for the youngsters—donkey rides, cocoanut shying, niggers and pierrots; facilities for paddling in absolute safety and opportunities for brief architectural triumphs, while older folks make use of the seats provided on the Esplanade when listening to the band.

Towards the end of the season such rough seas as that depicted in our picture may delight the eyes of those who love picturesque and beautiful effects.

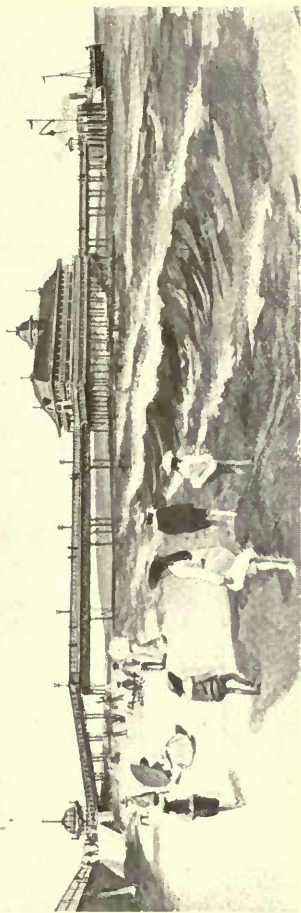
THE PROPOSED NEW PIER AT BURNHAM.

The New Pier at Burnham is proposed to be erected on the site of the present structure, nearly opposite the Queen's Hotel, and to extend seawards in a westerly direction for a distance of about 800 feet from the present Esplanade wall.

The alterations to the wall, where the Pier will spring from the Esplanade, will be carried out jointly by the Urban District Council and the Pier Company, and the present steep slipway will be removed, and a new one, with an easy gradient, will run down in a northerly direction leading out of the masonry approach to the Pier. The approach will be a fine open space, the new part of the Esplanade being between 60 and 70 feet wide, with a new Esplanade wall about 70 feet long, in about the centre of which will be the toll offices and turnstiles.

From the entrance to the Pier, for a distance of 125 feet, the Promenade Deck of the Pier will be about 30 feet wide, and slope upwards, so as to give the deck the necessary height above high water level as required by the Board of Trade. Then, for a distance of 210 feet, it will be 20 feet wide until the Pavilion (which is intended to be erected on the Pier) is reached. Here it will widen out to 80 or 90 feet for a distance of 130 feet.

The Pavilion is to be constructed in an ornamental style, will accommodate about 800 persons, and



THE PROPOSED NEW PIER BURNHAM.

will be equipped as a modern theatre. It will be provided with Balconies and Promenade both inside and out, and with cloak rooms and refreshment rooms. The stage and scenic arrangements will be such as are required by the best concert and theatrical companies. From the Pavilion, the Promenade Deck will continue to the low water line, and there a Pier Head will be constructed, which will berth steamers at practically all states of the tide.

Burnham will thus be placed in the premier position of direct communication with the South Wales coast, and will have an advantage possessed by no other resort on the English side of the Bristol Channel—*i.e.*, a steamer can arrive and leave almost at any time of day or night, irrespective of tide.

The Pier Head will be fitted with a light tower, which will fulfil a long-felt want of mariners plying to and from Bridgwater, and will allay the danger of vessels running on to the present stone and timber structure, which is more or less submerged after the tide has flowed for a few hours, and is at present undoubtedly a menace to the navigation of the river Parret.

The whole will be constructed on the most approved and up-to-date principles. The girders, which will be in spans of 50 feet, will be of rolled steel, and of the lattice type, supported on ornamental cast-iron spandril brackets on the top of circular piles screwed down to a firm foundation. The deck will be surmounted by artistically designed lamp-posts and palisading, and every effort will be used to make it as attractive and beautiful as any pier on the British Coast.

THE LIGHTHOUSES.

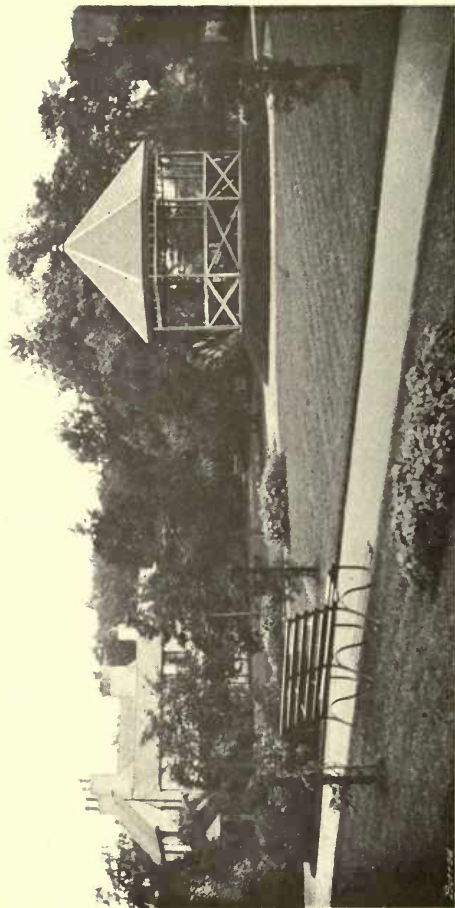
The Lighthouse, which stands upon the Berrow Road, about half a mile from the Parish Church, is open to visitors during a part of the day. It is circular in shape, 120 feet in height, and stands in its own grounds.

The Low Light, as it is called, stands on piles nearer to the sea. Both are on the east side of the river Parret, and they are intended to warn mariners off the treacherous sands on the north bank of the



ON THE SANDS, BURNHAM.

Montague Cooper, Photo.



THE MANOR GARDENS; AND CAFÉ, BURNHAM.

R. Winterburn, Photo.

stream, and to point the way to safe harbourage off Burnham. Before the erection of the High Light, many lives were lost on the Gore Sands, and even now sailors are somewhat anxious till they are safely past them.

THE MANOR GARDENS.

As already stated, these beautiful gardens were purchased by the Urban Council in 1903, and since that time have proved a very popular public rendezvous. They are situated in the centre of the town, within five minutes' walk of the station, and about 100 yards from the shore. The paths and grounds are well kept, seats are plentiful, and refreshments may be obtained at the Café. For those who are in search of rest and quiet this is an ideal spot at all times, except when the open-air concerts attract large numbers of people to the grounds.

PLACES OF WORSHIP AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

The Parish Church at Burnham was rebuilt and dedicated to St. Andrew in 1314 (the year Bannockburn was fought), and has at different times been enlarged to meet the demands of a growing population. The tower (which is somewhat out of the perpendicular) was restored in 1887, and contains a sweet peal of eight bells. The most striking feature of the interior is the altar-piece, which, according to the Latin inscription appended thereto, was "originally designed as an altar-piece for a Chapel Royal, attests the admirable skill of Inigo Jones, and was eventually deposited in the Church of St. Peter, Westminster. On being subsequently removed, not out of any disparagement of its merit, but in order to make way for a screen in union with the general architecture of the Abbey, it passed into the hands of Walker, Bishop of Rochester, who, out of kind regard to the parishioners whose minister he had been for 27 years, dedicated the gift to the glory of God within these walls." The total length of the church is 140 feet, and there are sittings for 820 persons. The memorial windows and the font (composed of various marbles) will attract attention. The register dates from 1630.

The Baptist and Wesleyan Churches are both in College Street, the latter being a pretty Gothic structure of stone.

A feature in Burnham's religious life is the Adult School held in the Friends' Meeting House. The Men's School opens at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and the Women's School at 3 p.m.

The school was opened in 1888, and has a Provident Society, Library, Cricket Club and Gymnasium all in full swing.

Roman Catholics meet in a fine Chapel known as "The Retreat of the Sacred Heart," which, with its adjoining schools and convent, stands in its own grounds to the south of the town.

The Brethren hold their meetings in Adam Street. Other buildings of note in the town are the Burnham Institute in Regent Street, the Town Hall in Princess Street (which will hold 600 people and is licensed for theatrical performances), the Almshouses known as Ellen's Cottages, and the handsome offices of the Urban District Council.

Sport at Burnham.

THE BURNHAM AND BERROW GOLF CLUB.

This club, which was formed in 1890, possesses a splendid 18-hole course about a mile from Burnham, amongst the Berrow sandhills. To use technical golfing terms, the "bunkers" and "hazards" on these links make them decidedly "sporting" in character, and the best scratch players in the West of England are numbered among the members of the club.

The pavilion facing the first tee and last hole is beautifully fitted up, and supplies all the needs of the golfer.

Large crowds attend the spring and autumn meetings held on these links, which have witnessed the exploits of such fine exponents of the game as Taylor and Harry Vardon. The club's entrance fee is £5 5s. and the annual subscription £1 1s.

On being introduced by the secretaries, or by a member, visitors are admitted on payment of 2s. per day, 10s. per week, and 30s. for the first month,



THE GOLF LINKS, BURNHAM.

R. Winterburn, Photo.

with the exception of the fortnight preceding the Spring Meeting and during the Spring and Autumn Meetings, when the fee is 5s. per day or £1 per week.

The club has won a great reputation for the sociability and *esprit de corps* of its members, who now number close on 300.

Hon. Secs., T. Holt, Esq., The Hall, Burnham, and T. Spencer, Esq., Naish House. Burnham.

BURNHAM LADIES' GOLF CLUB.

Adjoining the links described above, is the course used by **the Ladies' Golf Club**, which is one of the few ladies' clubs in this country possessing links with 18 holes. There are two pavilions (one reserved for ladies only) and a splendid croquet lawn and tennis ground besides.

The entrance fee and the annual subscription are each one guinea, the latter being reduced for members living outside a radius of 20 miles from the town.

Visitors obtain admission by paying 1s. per day, 5s. per week and 15s. per month for ladies; and 1s. 6d. per day, 7s. 6d. per week and £1 per month for gentlemen. Hon. Sec., C. E. Pierson, Esq., Flesk House, Burnham.

The establishment of these fine clubs has done much to add to Burnham's popularity as a residential centre for business men from Bristol and other places, the Ladies' Golf Championship Final, 1906, being one of the most interesting events of the year.

Excellent football, cricket, hockey and tennis clubs have been established in the town; there is safe bathing to be obtained on the beach; anglers visit the river Brue (which flows from Highbridge and joins the Parret close to Burnham), where good sport usually rewards them; while pleasant boating and yachting excursions may be obtained in the fine bay, or by visits to the coasts of Devon and Wales.

There is also good shooting to be had near the town or at Steart, some little distance away.

The Gymnasium at the Adult School is used by athletic clubs, private individuals or schools, and is



LADIES' GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL, 1906, AT BURNHAM.



GOLF MATCH (TAYLOR v. VARDON) AT BURNHAM.
Photos by Montague Cooper.

certainly worth visiting by those who take any interest in feats of agility and strength.

WALKS AROUND BURNHAM.

It has been justly pointed out that an unending variety of scenes may be obtained at Burnham owing to its proximity to the open country, so that the visitor seeking a change from the sights of the sea front may find it in the beauty of the rural landscapes which lie to the rear of the town.

A favourite walk is along the Berrow Road for half a mile or so, to Stodden's Lane—a pleasant spot overhung with many ancient trees. Or one may journey to the quaint old village of Berrow, with its square-towered venerable church, and, if so inclined, may continue the journey to the great Down of Brean, 7 miles from Burnham.

The fine **British Camp** on Brent Knoll is reached by way of "Crooked Lane" and Paradise, and Edithmead *via* Love Lane, the places being as delightful as the names they bear.

The stroll through Worston Lane to the turnpike, returning *via* Edithmead; and the walk along the bank of the Brue to Highbridge are equally pretty and interesting. **Lympsham** (in many respects an ideal English village) is reached through Berrow and East Brent.

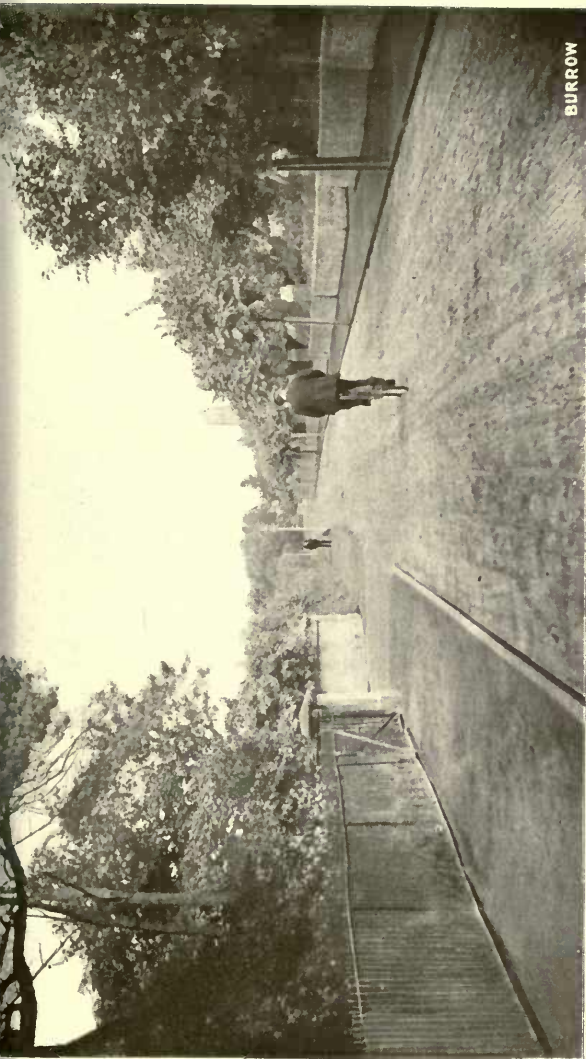
Within comparatively easy reach are the picturesque villages which nestle among the Polden and Mendip Hills, and the whole district is full of interest to the antiquarian, the photographer, the geologist and the botanist, whether they choose to travel by cycle or on foot.

Places of Interest in the Neighbourhood.

HIGHBRIDGE.

Only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Burnham is the market town of **Highbridge**, which possesses a very handsome church with a tapering octagonal spire. This building, with the adjoining Vicarage, was erected in 1859 at a cost of £4480.

As the junction of the G.W.R. and the Somerset and Dorset Railways takes place at Highbridge,



BURROW

BERROW ROAD, BURNHAM.

R. Winterburn, Photo.

the town is of some commercial importance, and during recent years has made considerable progress.

CHEDDAR.

The famous **Cheddar Cliffs** are 14 miles from Burnham, and the coach drives thither through Brent Knoll, Rooksbridge, Cross and Axbridge are most pleasant.

The Cheddar Cliffs and the Cheddar Cheese are known all over England, although very little of the latter comes from Cheddar. The excursion and coaching trips which start from Weston and Clevedon for the world-famed gorge pass through some of the most picturesque scenery of Somerset, and touch Banwell Hill, where is a wonderful stalactite cave from which great quantities of bear, buffalo and other remote species of wild animals' bones were unearthed, and are now preserved in the Taunton Museum.

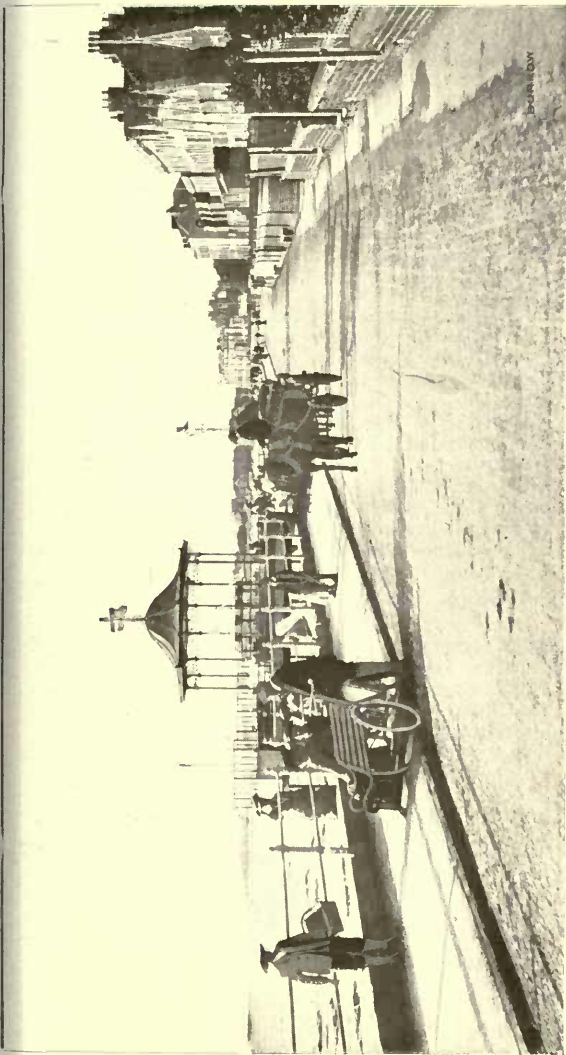
Cheddar Village is a straggling place lying in the deep ravine between towering cliffs 400 feet or more in height, which look like the massive walls of a giant castle. Geologists tell us that this gorge has been channelled out by water, like Symonds Yat on the Wye, and the little stream and pond in the hollow help to make that statement more credible to the unversed in such matters.

The Caves are near the Cheddar end of the gorge, with each entrance boarded up and decorated with flash-light photos of the interior in a very business-like manner.

Those who have never seen a stalactite cavern will be agreeably surprised by the beauty of these caves, in which the "water sculpturings," as Elihu Burritt calls them, seem to rival the art of man in their versatility and delicacy. Passing **Wookey Hole**, another huge limestone cave, near the source of the Axe, we reach the Cathedral City of

WELLS,

which has an almost Continental appearance, with its quiet market square and the triple towers of its **Cathedral** dominating the houses. It is strictly a Cathedral town, where the ecclesiastical life is the focus and centre of every movement, the very



ESPLANADE AND SEA FRONT, BURNHAM.

market place being, significantly enough, built by a bishop. Wells Cathedral has many architectural beauties, but the West Front, with its 400 carved figures, is a magnificent work of art—a *Te Deum* in stone it has been termed.

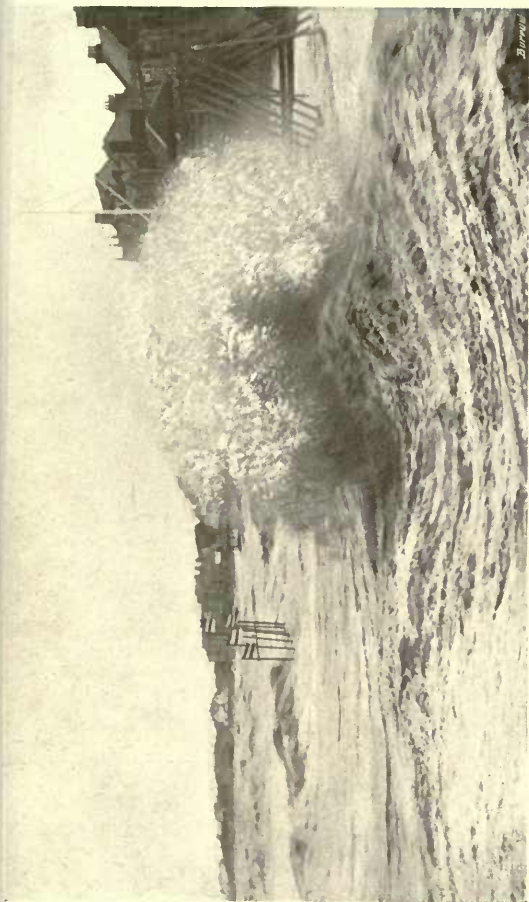
The towers are incomplete, but they seem so wonderfully adapted to their position and surroundings that one could hardly wish them improved. Within the building the visitor will be struck by the ingenious and boldly-conceived inverted arches under the tower, erected to preserve it from feared collapse.

There is also a beautiful view from the entrance to the Choir, looking towards the altar and the east window. The Lady Chapel, the symmetrical chapter house and the cloisters should also be inspected.

Beyond the cloisters is the castle-like **Bishop's Palace**, surrounded by a moat ; and the old gateway leading to the Vicar's Close and the Market Place. Wells Cathedral is indeed one of the brightest gems of the West Country. Visitors who may be tempted to make a longer stay here will find several well-appointed hotels in the city, and a large number of well-equipped business houses.

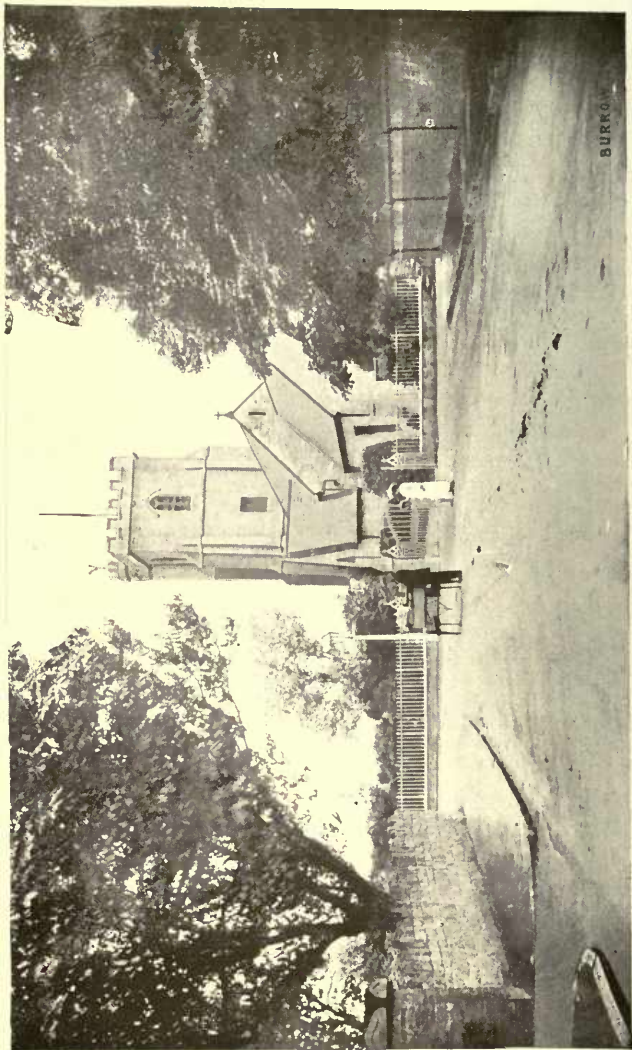
GLASTONBURY.

The famous **Abbey of Glastonbury** is 15 miles from Burnham, and is easy of access by rail, coach or cycle. It is one of the earliest ecclesiastical foundations in England, and forms a tie between the Briton and the Englishman, between the old Christianity and the new. It is the one church of the first rank which lived through the storm of English conquest, but its early records are so enveloped in legend that writers have been much exercised in the endeavour to piece its history together. The first church of Glastonbury was a little wattled building, whose erection is attributed by tradition to Joseph of Arimathea. About 546 David of Menevia is said to have built a new church near the old one, and in the 7th century the original erection was encased with boards, and covered with lead by Panalius of York.



A ROUGH SEA AT BURNHAM.

Montague Cosper, Photo.



The West Saxon King, Ine, built and endowed a monastery at Glastonbury, which may be considered as a new foundation.

From its decadence as the result of the Danish invasions, the Abbey was revived by St. Dunstan, its first abbot, but after various additions it was destroyed by fire in 1184. The restoration was carried out with great magnificence by Rudolphus. Severe strife has raged around the old Abbey, and in 1539, its sixtieth and last abbot, Robert Whyting, was executed, his body quartered and his head fixed on the Abbey gate.

The Chapel of St. Joseph is the best preserved part of the ruins; it is in late Norman style and possesses a truly beautiful doorway. The old clock presented to the Abbey by Adam de Godbury (1322-1335), and noteworthy as the first recorded example of a clock striking the hours automatically, is still preserved, although not in its entirety, in the Cathedral at Wells, six miles away. In all probability the famous ruins will shortly be bought by the Government, or by the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, on behalf of the nation.

Besides the Museum, there is very little to be seen in the town of Glastonbury, which is chiefly employed in the manufacture of gloves, bricks and pottery, but the ancient tower on the hill behind it should be visited.

This part of Somerset is connected in traditional history with the story of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, and, in later days, with that less apocryphal hero of English history, King Alfred the Great. At that time the Severn Sea came right up to the island, as it is still called, of

ATHELNEY,

a place ever to be associated with the incident of "Alfred and the cakes," which is so familiar to English school children.

Athelney, the "Isle of Nobles," is 18 miles from Burnham. Close by the bridge over the Tone is "**Alfred's Pillar**," erected on the site of Athelney Abbey in 1801. From the inscription on this pillar

we learn that "in grateful remembrance of the protection he had received under the favour of heaven," the King "erected a monastery on this spot, and endowed it with all the lands contained in the Isle of Athelney." The place is somewhat more inviting than it was in Alfred's days, though it is still surrounded by a marsh country abounding in willows and osiers, and supplying materials for the best baskets in England.

Nine miles from Athelney by road is the famous old town of

TAUNTON,

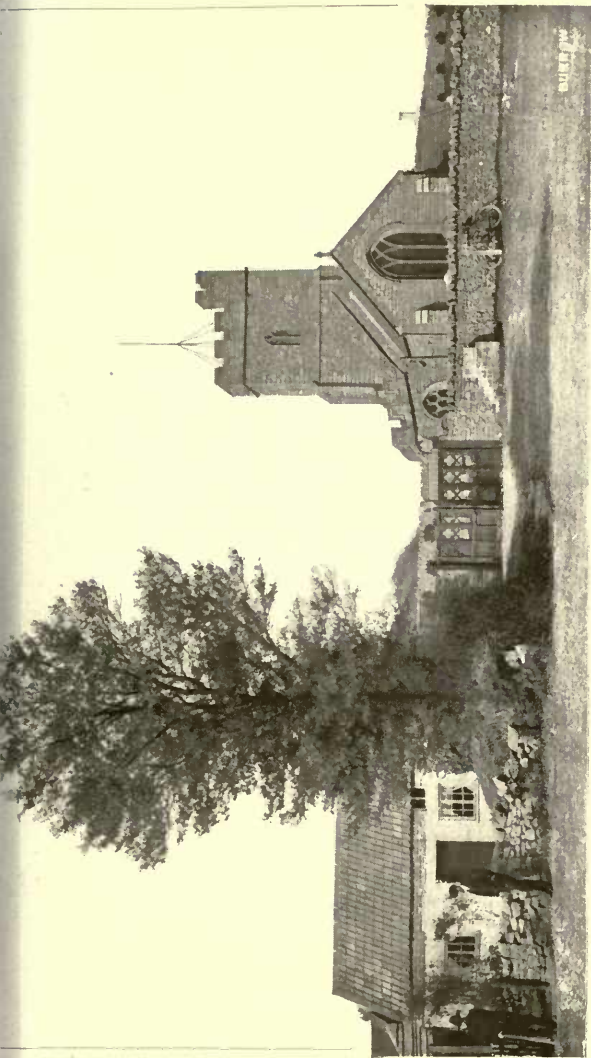
where much pleasant time may be spent in looking over the Castle and Museum, admiring the stately churches of St. Mary Magdalene and St. James, or in strolling round the beautiful Vivary Park and the recreation grounds. The collections of pottery, coins, encaustic tiles and other relics in **the Castle Museum** are of the greatest interest. Among these is a reliquary supposed to contain some of the blood of Thomas à Becket; a case of Monmouth relics (including cannon balls, the medal cast to commemorate the failure of the rebellion, etc.), and many broken weapons.

Other collections of equal interest will be found in the Round Tower. **Admission 2d.** Among Taunton's public buildings the Municipal Offices, the Shire Hall, and the quaint old Almshouses will attract most attention, nor will the handsome memorial to Taunton men who fell in the Burmese War be unnoticed.

Though replete with handsome shops and every modern convenience, Taunton still possesses several gabled houses, and innumerable narrow courts and blind alleys, which remind us of its great antiquity and interesting history. We may return to Burnham through North Pertherton and

BRIDGWATER,

where admirers of Robert Blake, the hero of the Taunton siege, and the vanquisher of Van Tromp, "the Admiral brave and bold," will linger to have a look at the house in Blake Street where he was born.



BERROW CHURCH, NEAR BURNHAM.

The road is a good one for cyclists, the distance from Taunton 12 miles, and the objects of interest in the town are the bronze statue of Blake erected in its centre; the fine painting of "The Descent from the Cross," in the church, and the carved house fronts seen as we leave the town for the ride home.

A HANDY LIST OF DISTANCES FROM BURNHAM.

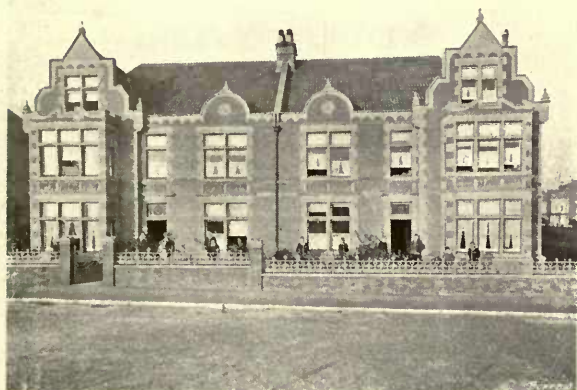
PLACE.	MILES.	LOOK FOR.
Athelney	18	Alfred's Pillar.
Brean Down	6	Hills commanding fine
Brent Knoll	11	views of the Bristol Channel.
Cheddar	14	Caves and Cliffs.
Clevedon	24	Pier. Beaches. Public Gardens. Parish Church (burying- place of Arthur Hallam). Views from Dial and Straw- berry Hills.
Crook's Peak (the sum- mit of the Mendips)..	12	Magnificent scenery.
Glastonbury	18	Fine Abbey ruins. Museum and Tor.
Holford Glen	21	Lovely wooded Glen.
Lympsham	6	Beautiful village. Handsome Church.
Taunton	21	Castle. Museum. Fine churches. Park.
Wells	18	Magnificent Cathedral. Bishop's Palace.
Weston-super-Mare ..	12	Marine Parade. Pier. Beach. Grove Park. Woods and Worle- bury Camp.

Cyclists will find the roads radiating from Burnham uniformly excellent, those to Wells and Taunton being particularly fine, and full particulars concerning coaching trips may be obtained at the "Lifeboat" Hotel.

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